

Appl. No. 10/027,736
Amendment dated March 8, 2004

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

This amendment is being submitted in response to a request from the Examiner. The Examiner has indicated that the claims have allowable subject matter. Applicants have cancelled claims 3-10, 12-13, 19-14, 77-83 and 88-90 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in one or more continuation applications. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 14, 16, 18, 75, 85 and 87. Applicants submit the amended claims are supported throughout the specification, including at page 25, lines 1-13 and page 36, lines 1-18. Applicants submit the amended claims do not raise any issues of new matter.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants note that they have not yet received initialed 1449 form from the Examiner for Information Disclosure Statement submitted on March 19, 2002, April 8, 2002 and March 4, 2004. Applicants request consideration of the submitted references and return of the initialed 1449 forms.

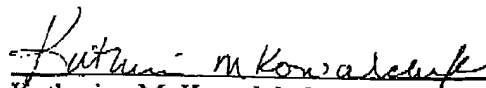
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative if prosecution may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: March 8, 2004


Katherine M. Kowalchuk
Reg. No. 36,848
KMK:sab

